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PERSISTING IN SOCIALISM

The two houses of Congress being in disagreement over some of the provisions of the army bill, President Wilson takes occasion to make it known that he insists upon the retention of the Senate's provision to spend fifteen millions of government money for the establishment of a plant to extract nitrates from the atmosphere.

Private concerns, of undoubted financial strength and industrial integrity, have offered to spend millions of their own money to establish such a plant and to sell to the government, at an agreed price, all the nitrates needed for the manufacture of explosives.

A similar offer was made by the manufacturers armor plate, but the Democrats persisted in spending eleven millions of government money to set up their own armor plant.

Private enterprise has repeatedly made it known that plenty of ships flying the American flag can be put upon the ocean without the spending of a single dollar from the national treasury if only Congress will relieve ship-owners from some of the oppressive burdens which existing and ill-considered laws lay upon them. Yet Mr. Wilson and Mr. McAdoo insist that the government must put up fifty millions of public money to provide ships to take our products to foreign markets.

This insistence upon socialistic legislation is one of the leading tendencies of the Democratic party today. If carried to its logical extension, the policy which we have here outlined, means that there will soon be no field of individual enterprise wherein an American citizen can embark without the haunting fear that he may any day be brought into direct and destructive competition with the government. Where public money will be available to atone for all the defects and errors which experience has shown to be inherent in government ownership and where private capital cannot compete.

In all this there is a trumpet call to the American business man to arouse himself and to exert himself, to enter actively into politics in order that a sharp and peremptory check may be given to the socialistic tendencies which the Democratic party is endeavoring to give to legislation and administration. The instrument for such activity is ready. It is the Republican party. Business men should be found in Republican ranks if they wish to preserve the spirit of individual initiative and enterprise which has made America the great commercial and industrial force that she is.

W. H. M.'S LETTER

Bradford, Pa., May 23, 1916.
Editor Daily Ledger:

In our last letter to the Ledger we referred to a certain element that would not vote for either of the old parties this year at the Presidential election. We also promised to tell the readers of the Ledger, what might be expected of this dissatisfied element. We have spent about eight days in Pennsylvania, and some of the larger towns of Western New York, and there is one fact that we know beyond the question of a doubt that the political leaders of the East so far as the Republicans are concerned do not want either Hughes or Roosevelt as their candidate, but rather than face defeat will take either of them. The Buffalo Express conducted a preferential ballot of a majority of the counties of New York, by congressional districts and Mr. Roosevelt proved to be a much weaker candidate than Justice Hughes.

The Express also opened its columns to the voters to express their views regarding Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy. We have never seen a more bitter denunciation of any candidate for President than those short letters contained against Mr. Roosevelt, and strange to say these denunciations were not as a rule from the Hypocritical American. He was called the Judas Iscariot of the 20th century, the wrecker of the Republican party, the tool of George Perkins and other corporate manipulators, and one writer said: "Roosevelt is often referred to as T. R. we would suggest that five more letters be added to T. R. that will spell in full his true name TRAITOR."

However after all this bitter expression of public opinion, Roosevelt at Chicago surrounded by his Bull Moose followers will be a quantity to reckon with. Henry Ford is talked of as leading a peace party, but this talk is not very likely to materialize, and in case Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Root should be nominated, leaves this dissatisfied element to be placed in some position either active or inactive.

Many of these dissatisfied voters will line up with the Socialist party, not that they have ever given socialism a real analytical thought, for socialism is really a scientific study, but for the simple reason that these voters are a factor in the make-up of the political world and want to be counted. What is socialism and what does it stand for? To answer these questions and do justice to the Socialist, would require much time, and also require a much abler writer than my humble self. However we will say that many people of considerable ability have a very erroneous conception of the

Again when factories, mills and mines produce more than they can find a market for, then there is distress among the workers, men are laid off, the price of labor goes down, while rents and necessities of life remain the same or go up.

The Socialist view of these conditions which we all know often happen from this standpoint. The worker has produced all this wealth, for which there is at present no market, and yet amid all this abundance that his own hand has created, he often walks the street ragged, homeless, and hungry. These conditions often bring on strikes and riots, the loss of life and the destruction of property. This in the opinion of many able men is the chief reason why the capitalist are clamoring so loudly for preparedness, and for building up the State militia, and for military training in our public schools. The bill for military training in the public schools in New York was signed by the Governor a few days ago and now has become a law.

Pennsylvania has an army known as the State Police or State Constabulary. This army now is probably 10,000 or 12,000 strong, I am told they are paid \$75 per month, whether this salary is paid for each month, or only for the time they are on duty we do not know, they consist of both infantry and cavalry, and their maintenance is paid by the taxpayers of the state. We have seen them in many places of this state, and notice they eat at the best hotels.

During a prolonged strike in one of the large cities of this state a prominent manufacturer said to the writer, "This is the way to deal with strikers, if one of them is killed it is the last of the matter." Could militarism be more absolute? However this army is not deemed sufficient to protect the interest of the manufacturers of the state, and a strenuous effort is being made to bring recruits to the State Constabulary, but such men as can pass the examination into this army of State Police are turning their attention to pastures more green.

The munition makers feel they are sadly in need of expert gunmen, and are paying \$150 per month for mounted Cossacks to guard their plants while they continue to pile up dollars making the implements of death to destroy their fellowman. The rapid concentration of wealth into hands of the few is viewed by the Socialist, as well as many others with much alarm. With all our boasted wealth, and loud vaunted christianity statistics, under our present economic system show we are not doing much for the moral, physical or financial welfare of the people. Statistics show that we have in our penitentiaries 102,329 prisoners and in our juvenile institutions 23,786 children. There is a total of 199,981 paupers in the United States. Three million pauperized citizens ask assistance from charitable institutions each year. There are 500,000 prostitutes in the United States of which 100,000 die each year. Only \$3 per year for each child is spent to educate it, while \$17 is spent to keep its father drunk.

Six per cent of the population of the United States own 82 per cent of the wealth, 19 per cent the middle class own 15 per cent, and 75 per cent of the working class own 3 per cent. There are 8,246,857 persons above the age of ten years in the United States that can neither read or write. Out of 22,000,000 school children 6,000,000 never enter a school. The railroads of the United States own 60,000,000 acres of the people's lands and are still accumulating more. Ten years ago 75 per cent of the farming was done under the tenant system. Do we need any change in the management of our government? Can these conditions exist indefinitely? Will not the time come and come soon too, when we as a nation must enter the first stage of our decadence? This has been the history of all other nations who have traveled the road that we are so rapidly traveling over. Can we hope to escape their fate? The Socialist party claim, that socialism will when in force dispel these conditions, that armies and navies will not be needed to protect our foreign trade, for with universal socialism the commerce of the sea will be open to all nations, which can never be either under a high or low tariff and by the way this is practically Mr. Taft's view of the matter for when he was President he said that reciprocity world wide would be a great blessing to the world. Then why not have it.

We are told the Socialist can never accomplish anything, they are too few in numbers. All parties were at first, but socialism even in this country when its membership is smaller than in European countries, is no longer an insignificant party. At the last Presidential Election Eugene V. Debs polled a million votes. Chicago elected a socialist congressman. Milwaukee when the Socialist were defeated four years ago by a fusion of the two old parties at their last city election swept Milwaukee clean, electing their entire ticket. Schenectady, New York, has a Socialist Mayor. The City of New York has several socialist councilmen. Bakersfield, Cal., Butte Mont., and other cities in the United States are under Socialist government. Italy

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new members to its ranks, they expect to elect a number of able Socialists to Congress. And every speech such as Senator Chamberlain made a few days ago, saying conscription was the only method to insure preparedness, is surely driving the people to Socialism, they will not stand for conscription in times of peace. If the prosperity of a nation depends upon armed force such as is used in this state, then prosperity is a dear thing to all except the capitalist. The great masses of the people fear preparedness for in it they see the iron clutch of militarism, and rather than submit to this they will turn to Socialism. There is a crisis rapidly approaching, how will the people meet it, will it be met with wisdom, or will it be met with a folly that later will bring bitter repentance.

W. H. M.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

For Congress.

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L & N Louisville & Nashville RAILROAD.

No. 11 departs 5:35 a. m., daily except Sunday.

No. 9 departs 1:00 p. m., daily except Sunday.

No. 19 departs 3:40 p. m., daily.

No. 10 arrives 9:50 a. m., daily except Sunday.

No. 18 arrives 2:05 p. m., daily.

No. 14 arrives 8:30 p. m., daily except Sunday.

No. 16 arrives 7:50 a. m., daily except Sunday.

No. 17 departs 7:50 a. m., daily except Sunday.

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No. 117 departs at 6 a. m.

No. 118 arrives at 11:35 p. m.

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